Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE NECESSITY OF LOW TEMPERATURES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VACCINE VIRUS.

The fact has not been sufficiently emphasized that vaccine virus can not be depended upon to give "takes" unless it is kept at a low temperature, i. e., one not far above the freezing point of water. If it can be kept at or below the freezing point so much the better. There is no danger of keeping it too cold.

The length of time that vaccine virus may remain potent under unfavorable temperature conditions varies according to other circumstances, such as initial potency and reaction of medium. In emergencies virus kept under relatively unfavorable conditions for a short time may be used. Favorable results may be secured with virus so kept, but if success does not follow its use the failure should not be attributed to poor quality of the product.

The United States Pharmacopœia, ninth decennial revision, specifies temperatures between 4.5° and 15° C. for vaccine virus; the latter figure given is in all probability higher than is desirable.

The dating requirements of the United States Treasury Department provide that the dates beyond which vaccine virus can not be expected beyond reasonable doubt to yield its specific result (i. e., the expiration date) shall be indicated as not later than three months after date of manufacture or issue during the period September 16 to April 30, and not more than two months after date of manufacture or issue during the period May 1 to September 15. The shorter period of potency of vaccine virus during the summer as compared with winter temperature is well known. For long journeys in warm weather special refrigerating devices should be used for shipping vaccine virus. After reaching their destination the packages should be placed immediately in a metal container, and this should be kept directly in contact with ice till the vaccine is used.

References to the necessity for keeping vaccine virus cold appeared in the Public Health Reports for May 11, 1917, and for November 30, 1917.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, APRIL AND MAY, 1920.

The accompanying table is reprinted, by permission, from the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for June, 1920. The figures are based on a strength in excess of 13,000,000.